A PROTESTATION of the Gentlemen Priſoners in the TOWER of LONDON

Dated October 1647.

Made by them upon the occaſion of an Order of the houſe of Commons for their ſudden removall thence to ſeverall other Priſons where by reaſon of the ſequeſtring them of all their Eſtates (contrary to the known and Fundamentall Laws of England, contained in *Magna Charta* and the Petition of right, &c. ſo often ſworn to be maintained and inviolably obſerved by this preſent Parliament) and denying unto them according to the known Law of the Land, allowance for their maintenance) they muſt in reaſon be neceſſitated to ſterve and periſh.

Unto which is perfixed their Letter, which the 14 of October 1647. was delivered to the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons.

Printed in the Year. 1647.

A

PROTESTATION

of the

Gentlemen Prisoners

in the

TOWER of LONDON

Dated October 1647.

SIR,

WE being extreamly prest by our unsupportable wants and Calamities, have thought it expedient once more to put you in mind thereof, and of our former proceedings, and frequent solicitations, for relief in this our starving condition; the several applications we have made to obtain Justice in this particular, is so wel known, both to the Honourable Houses and your self, as it will be needless for us at present to repeat: whereunto may be added the noble favour and care, the General hath expressed towards us, who as we are enformed, was pleased upon our addresses unto him to intercede for us, and to recommend the Consideration thereof unto the Honourable House, with great efficacy; but what hath all this produced as to our remedy, truly no other effect, save an increase to our sorrows, and a new addition, (if any addition can be made) to our former miseries, as is evident by the order, lately made for our removal to other prisons, one of them being infected with the plague, where if by Gods mercy we should be preserved from the Contagion of that disease, we must likewise look for a miracle from the same hand, to preserve us from famishing. The great debts we have contracted in this place, and the persons unto whom it is owing left unsatisfied, being likely to prove an ill letter of recommendation to procure us credit, in those places where we are to be removed, so as since it apparently threatens our distructions, we cannot but protest against it, with ful resolution,

not willingly to remove from hence, but by force, which we cannot resist, unless our debts here be first payd, and provision made for the future, for our maintenance in those places where we are appointed to go; which Protestation we have sent you here inclosed with our names subscribed thereunto. Having thus stated our cause before you, with candor and truth, the ill Consequences thereof, and how prejudicial it may prove hereafter, even to those that have least sence of our sorrows, we hope it wil be taken into your most serious thoughts, who having no Charter of exemption, may peradventure themselves, come to tast of those bitter waters, wherewith we have already surfeted, and how sad a president our oppressions wil afford to future times, we shal leave to the world impartially to judg of; in the bitterness therefore of our souls, we are inforced once more to call upon you, and to conjure you, as you believe a time wil come when all must render an account of their actions; and as you wil answer it in that dreadful day, before the tribunal of the Almighty, that you neglect not the crys of the oppressed any longer, but that you will speedily apply your self to the Honourable House, to procure such timely remedy for us, as our necessities require, that so the inhumanity of these times may not lie as a brand of infamy upon this Nation to all posterity. It being the last request which we intend to make unto you, whose names are hereunto subscribed. *October*, 13.

Henry Vaugham, Wingfield Bodenham, John Slaughter, David Jenkins, John Morley, Tho. Lunsford, Wil. Morton.

The Proteſtation.

WE whoſe names are ſubſcribed, being priſoners in the Tower of London, committed by ſeveral Warrants of Mr Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, being deſtitute of Means or Money to ſubſiſt withal, having made ſeveral Addreſſes to both Houſes of Parliament, by Petition and by divers Letters and Solicitations made to the Committee for Relief of Priſoners, to his Excellency Sir THO. FAIRFAX, and others, whom we thought powerful or willing to relieve Us in our moſt Urgent neceſſities, and having daily and hourly proſecuted our ſute on that behalf ever ſince the midſt of December laſt, and Maintainance being due to priſoners committed as wel to the Tower as to all other Priſons of England, eſpecially Priſoners of War, both by the Law of Armes, the Law of England, and the ancient Cuſtomes of the Kingdoms, as by divers Authentick Records and Preſidents of all ages hath and wil be made manifeſt and

having had divers promiſes of relief and maintainance from the Committe for relief of Priſoners, and that an Ordinance ſhould paſſe for the ſame, contrary to which ingagement there are Warrants under the Speakers hand of the Houſe of Commons, come to remove and diſperſe Us into other priſons, whereof ſome are infected with the plague, and others are more chargeable lodgings, being to be payd for there (but not here) and not a bit of meat to be had in them, but for preſent money, which we have not to give, and we having ſome credit to live upon in this priſon where we are, but have not any acquaintance nor can expect any credit in thoſe priſons: which Warrants are procured for our prejudice (if we be removed hence, without competent proviſion made for our Maintainance) it wil be inevitably to the deſtruction of us and loſſe of our lives; we therefore being inſtructed thereunto by the law of nature, warranted by the laws of God and laws of the Land, for the neceſſary preſervation of our lives, leaſt we ſhould become ſelf-murderers, do profeſſe & declare to all the world and

to

to the Speaker of the Houſe of Commons, that we cannot ſuffer our ſelves to be removed out of this Priſon, wherein we now are, but by Force and Violence, which we cannot withſtand until ſuch time as the honorable Houſes of Parliament have paſt their Ordinance for our future maintainance in thoſe Priſons whereunto we ſhal be ſent, and that they by the ſame Ordinance take care of our Arrears and provide for the payment of ſuch debts as we have contracted for our neceſſary ſubſiſtance in this priſon of the Tower; and this being done, we ſhal willingly remove to thoſe priſons they have appointed unto us, provided that they be not infected with the Plague: Signed by us, this 9. day of October: 1647.

Henry Vaughan; Wingfield Bodenham; F. Slaughter; David Jenkins; John Morley; Thomas Lunsford; William Morton.

FINIS.